



Weekly COVID-19 Update in Montana (as of 7/8/2022)

This report is a weekly snapshot of COVID-19 activity in Montana. Data are analyzed based on information available as of July 8, 2022. Data are provisional and expected to change as more information is received.

Case Data

Table 1. Summary of COVID-19 Activity – Montana, as of 7/8/2022

	TOTAL	RECENT WEEK	PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK
REPORTED CASES	290,676	2,295	0%
LABORATORY TESTS	2,902,748	11,081	-22%
HOSPITALIZATIONS	12,518	106	+25%
DEATHS	3,455	6	+50%

Figure 1. COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations over Time – Montana, as of 7/8/2022

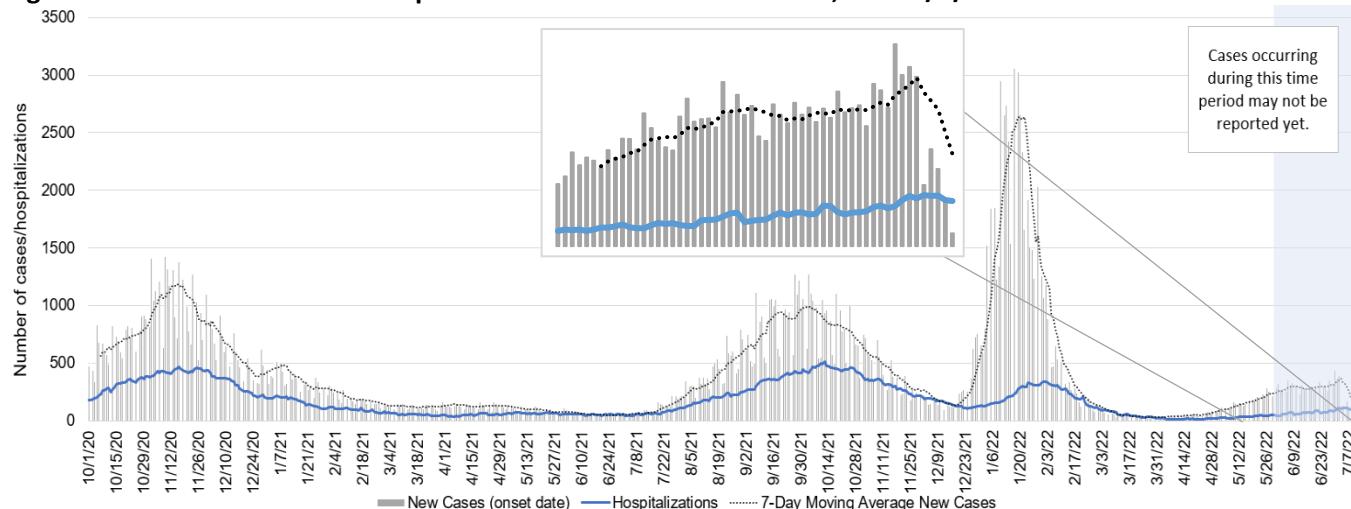


Figure 2: Status of Acute Care and ICU Beds – Hospitals in Montana, 6/29-7/12 2022

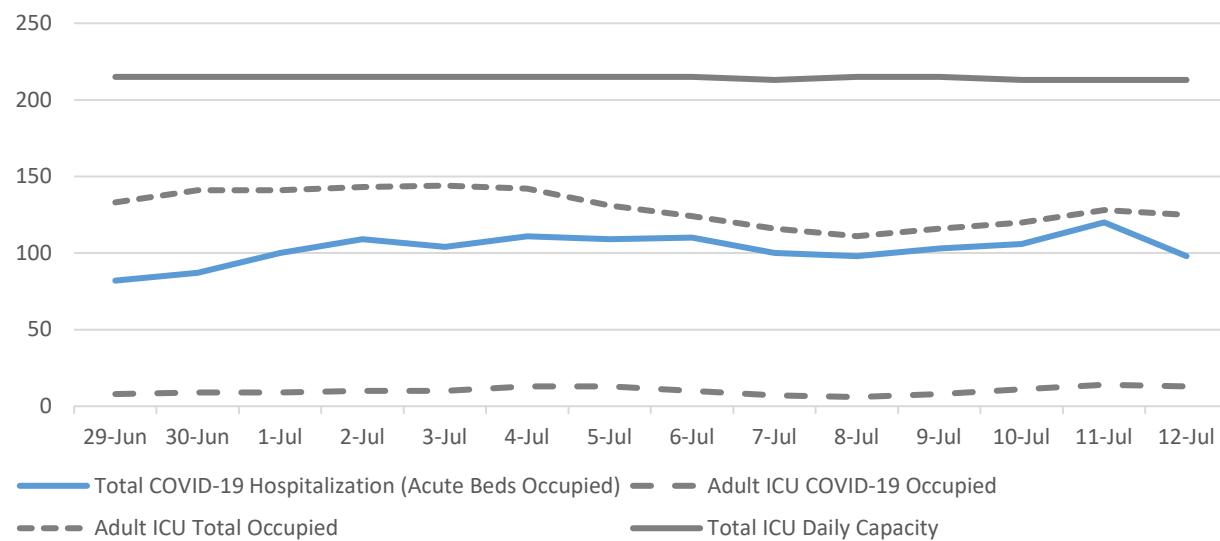
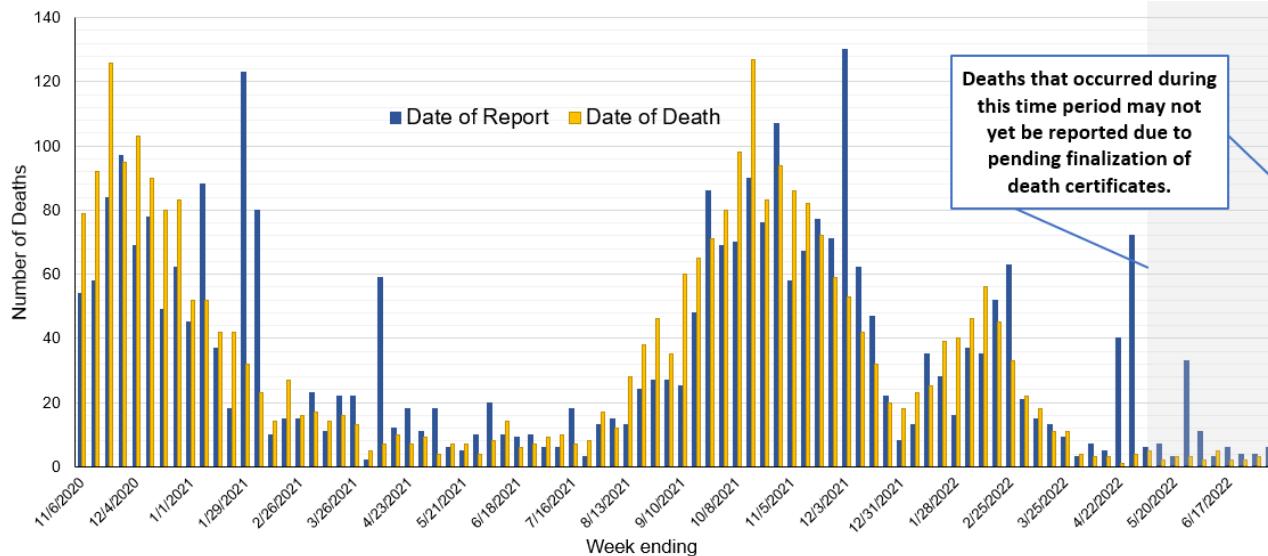


Figure 3. COVID-19 Deaths by Report Date and Date of Death – Montana, 11/1/2020 – 7/8/2022


Vaccine Data

Montana began vaccinating individuals in mid-December 2020 with a phased process: Phase 1A on December 14, 2020, Phase 1B on January 19, 2021, and Phase 1B+ on March 8, 2021. Vaccinations were opened to all Montanans age 16+ on April 1, 2021, and expanded to all Montanans age 12+ on May 10th, 2021. The Pfizer vaccine was approved for the 5–11 year-old age group on October 29th, 2021. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were approved for all Montanans aged 6 months and older on June 18, 2022. To date, 1,508,917 doses have been given across the state and 53% of the eligible population is considered fully vaccinated (table 2).

Table 2: COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered, 0+ years-old – Montana, as of 7/8/2022

NUMBER	PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE POPULATION	WEEK ENDING 6/24	WEEK ENDING 7/1	WEEK ENDING 7/8**	
				3,473	3,477
TOTAL DOSES ADMINISTERED	1,508,917				
DOSE 1 ADMINISTERED	640,790	59%*	568	737	565
FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS	569,285	53%*	355	337	249

*Please note that the decrease in percentages this week is due to the addition of the 0-4 year-old age group.

**The data for the most recent week are preliminary and are expected to be an underestimate of the doses administered during the week, due to a reporting lag.

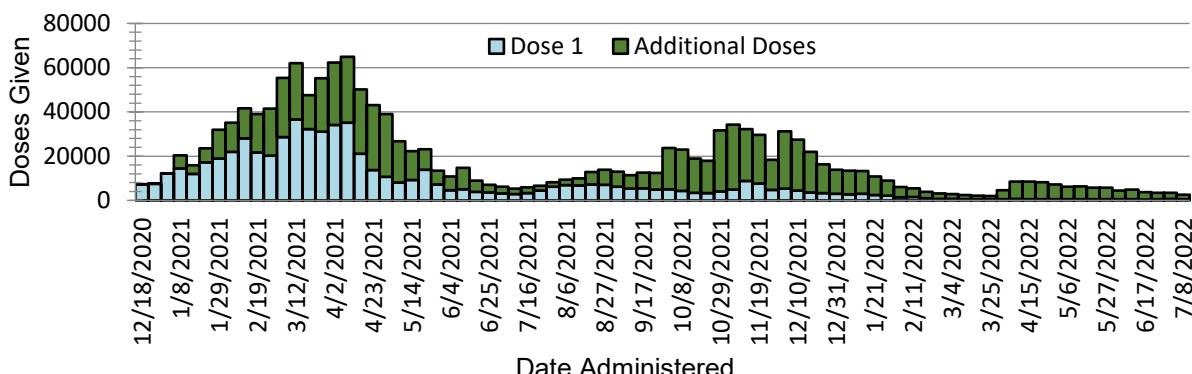
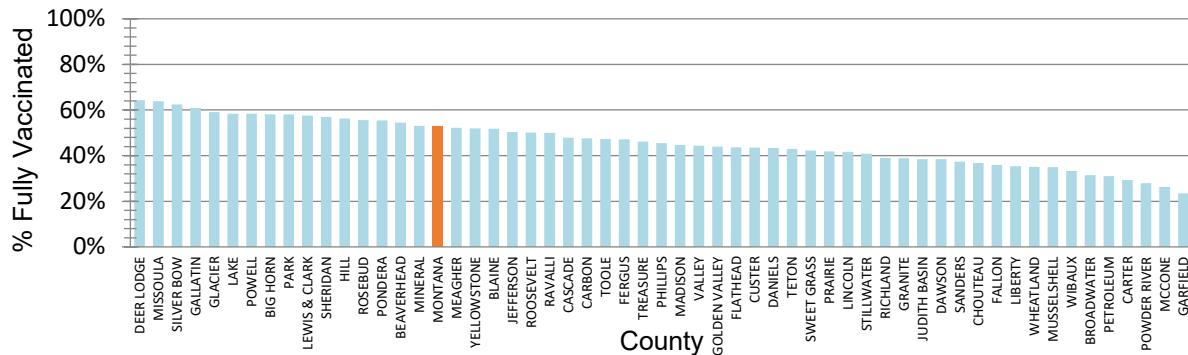
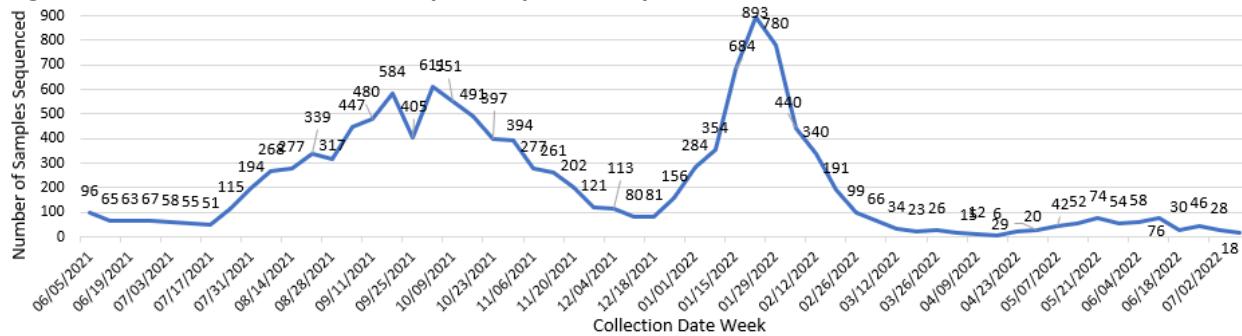
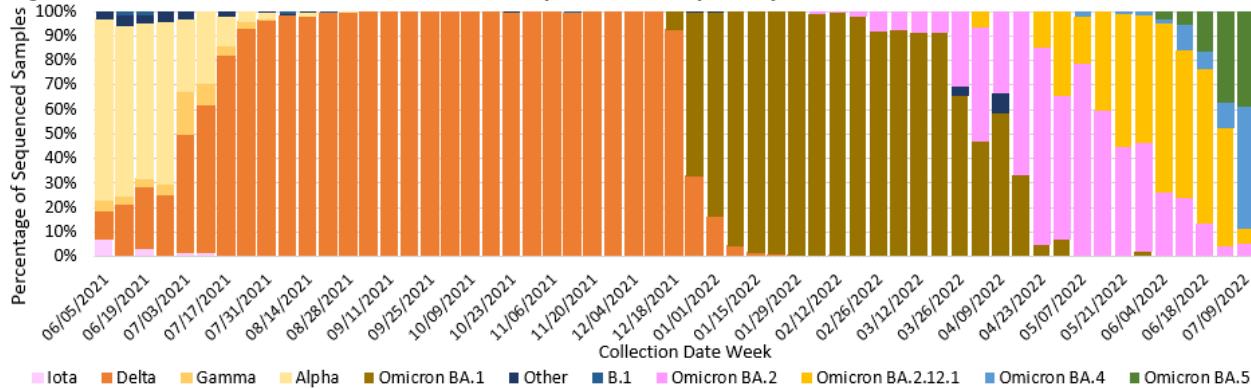
Figure 4. COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered by Week, 0+ years-old – Montana, as of 7/8/2022


Figure 5. Percent of Eligible Montanans (0+ years-old) Fully Vaccinated by County – Montana, 7/8/2022


Variant and Breakthrough Cases

Figure 6 displays the number of Montana samples sequenced by week. Figure 7 displays the percentage of the most common SARS-CoV-2 lineages detected out of all Montana samples sequenced by week. There have been 17,204 samples from Montana that have been sequenced with their lineages reported to GISAID since September 2020. Please note the relatively small number of samples sequenced in recent weeks limits interpretation of the available variant sequencing data.

As of July 9, there have been 4,796 cases of COVID across Montana infected with Omicron variants. DPHHS is monitoring sublineages of the Omicron variant, including BA.2 (pink, below) and BA.2.12.1 (gold, below). Newer Omicron subvariants include BA.4 (light blue, below) first identified in Montana on May 4, 2022 and BA.5 (green, below) which was first identified in Montana on May 31, 2022. There have been 122 sequences reported to GISAID from positive samples collected in the last four weeks—50 (41%) BA.2.12.1, 45 (37%) BA.5, 19 (16%) BA.4, and 7 (6%) BA.2. There were 18 samples collected the week ending July 9, 2022, that were sequenced and reported to GISAID.

Figure 6. Number of COVID-19 samples sequenced by collection date, Montana 7/9/2022

Figure 7. Percent of COVID-19 variants in sequenced samples by collection date, Montana 7/9/2022




A breakthrough COVID-19 infection is defined as a positive SARS-CoV-2 specimen collected ≥ 14 days after completing the primary COVID-19 vaccine series of an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine. Studies show that protection from COVID vaccination decreases over time; in response, the CDC has recommended booster doses for eligible populations to protect against waning immunity. As of July 12, 2022, Montana reports 51,908 cases of confirmed breakthrough disease, which includes 1,777 hospitalizations and 445 deaths. CDC data from April 2022 show that unvaccinated individuals aged 5 years and older were 1.9 times more likely to become infected with COVID-19, compared to individuals vaccinated with at least a primary series in the same age group. Additionally, unvaccinated individuals 5 and older had 6 times the risk of dying from COVID-19 compared to individuals vaccinated with at least a primary series in the same age group.¹

Hospitalizations and Deaths and Vaccination Status

COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths were analyzed between **April 1, 2021 and July 8, 2022** to review vaccination status. Since the beginning of April 2021, 77% of Montanans who were hospitalized and 76% of those who died were unvaccinated at the time of infection (Table 3). Of the 7,676 individuals who were hospitalized during this time period, 155 (2%) were <18 years old, 1,036 (13%) were 18 to 44 years old, 2,418 (32%) were 45 to 64 years old and 4,067 (53%) were ≥ 65 years old.

Additionally, COVID-19-related hospitalization and death data from **May 14 – July 8, 2022** (last 8 weeks) were analyzed to review vaccination status. Forty-eight percent of Montanans who were hospitalized and 52% of those who died had not received a COVID-19 vaccine (Table 4)¹. Of the 537 individuals who were hospitalized during this time period, 15 (3%) were <18 years old, 67 (12%) were 18 to 44 years old, 97 (18%) were 45 to 64 years old and 358 (67%) were ≥ 65 years old.

Table 3. Vaccination status of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths – April 1, 2021 to July 8, 2022

	HOSPITALIZATIONS	DEATHS
TOTAL REPORTED	7,676	1,854
UNVACCINATED	5,911 (77%)	1,410 (76%)
VACCINATED (BREAKTHROUGH CASE)	1,765 (23%)	444 (24%)
UNVACCINATED AGE RANGE IN YEARS (MEDIAN AGE)	<1-102 (63)	<1-103 (71)
VACCINATED AGE RANGE IN YEARS (MEDIAN AGE)	7-103 (74)	20-101 (81)

Table 4. Vaccination status of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths – May 14 to July 8, 2022

	HOSPITALIZATIONS	DEATHS
TOTAL REPORTED	537	21
UNVACCINATED	260 (48%)	11 (52%)
VACCINATED (BREAKTHROUGH CASE)	277 (52%)	10 (48%)
UNVACCINATED AGE RANGE IN YEARS (MEDIAN AGE)	<1-100 (70)	61-100 (87)
VACCINATED AGE RANGE IN YEARS (MEDIAN AGE)	13-99 (74)	72-96 (81)

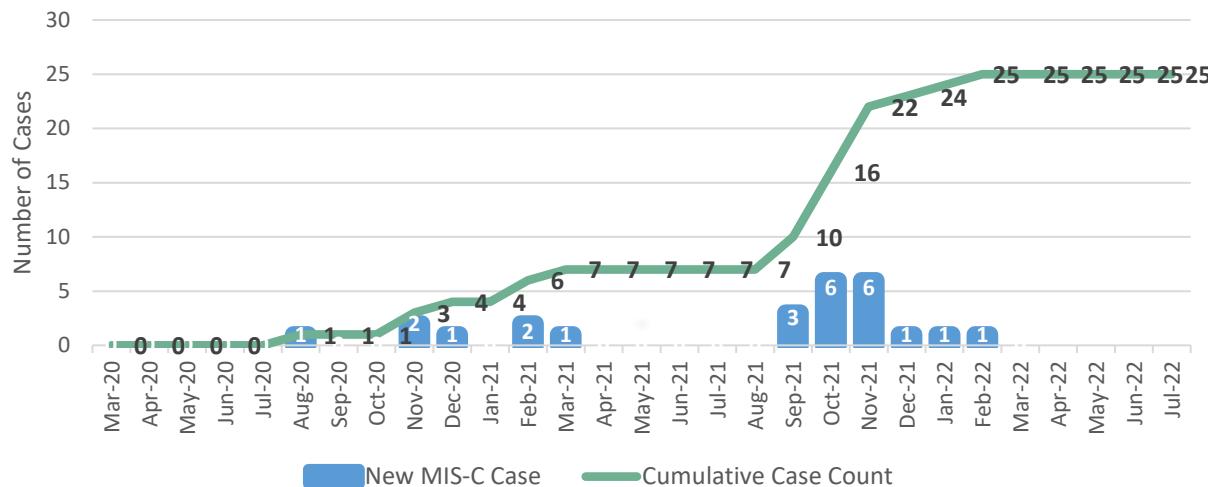
¹The analysis of hospitalizations and deaths by vaccination status does not include data on booster doses. Booster doses are recommended by the CDC and have been shown to improve protection against death from COVID-19¹.

¹ CDC – COVID Data Tracker – Rates of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Vaccination Status. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#rates-by-vaccine-status>. July 12, 2022.

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)

As of July 8, 2022, there have been a total of 25 cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children, or MIS-C, reported in Montana. There have been no deaths. Ages range from less than 1 year to 20 years old; median is 9 years. Eleven cases were female, 14 were male. Cases are from 13 counties around Montana. The first case of MIS-C was reported in August 2020; 18 of the 25 cases have been reported since September 2021 (Figure 8).

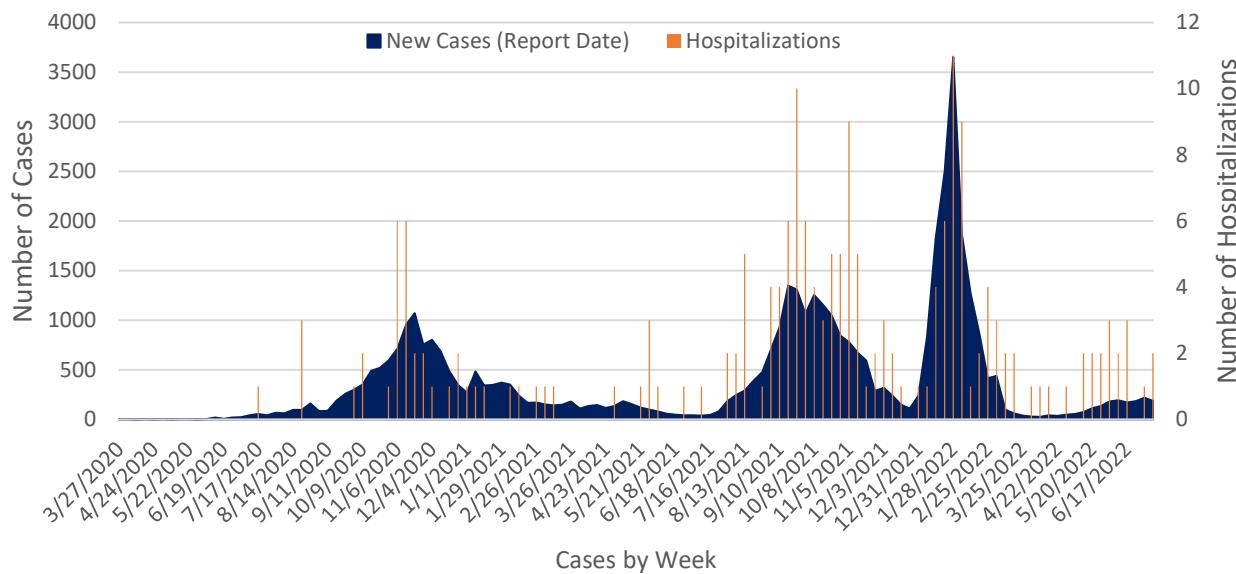
Figure 8. Montana MIS-C Cases by Month of Onset, March 2020 – July 2022



Cases and Hospitalizations Associated with COVID-19 Among Children

To date, there have been 44,573 children <18 years old in Montana diagnosed with COVID-19. Of those, 191 (<1%) have been hospitalized. Case rates among children follow a similar pattern to COVID-19 cases among all age groups (see Figure 1 for comparison) and increased sharply during the recent Omicron surge (Figure 9). There were 186 cases of COVID-19 in children reported during the week of July 2 – July 8, 2022, which is a 15% decrease in cases among that age group compared to the previous week. Two hospitalizations in children were reported that week.

Figure 9. COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations by Week, March 2020 – July 1, 2022, Children <18

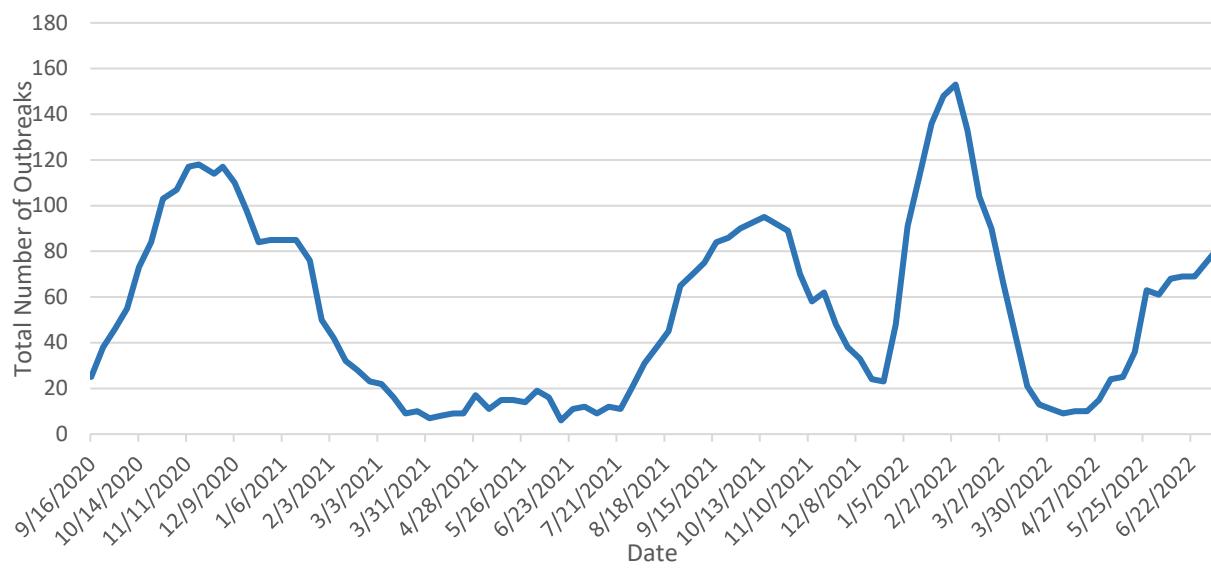




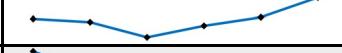
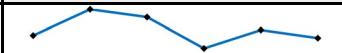
Assisted Living Facility and Long Term Care Facility Cases and Hospitalizations

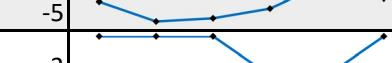
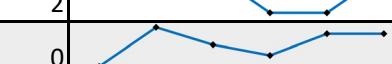
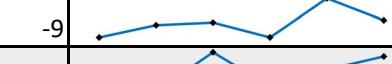
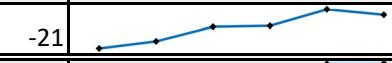
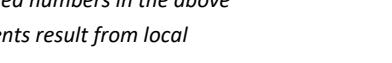
There are 71 long-term care facilities (LTCFs) and 211 assisted living facilities (ALFs) in Montana. As of July 8, 2022, there have been 12,251 cases associated with ALFs and LTCFs since the beginning of the pandemic, which comprises 4% of the total number of COVID-19 cases Montana has reported. There have been 654 COVID-related deaths associated with ALFs and LTCFs in Montana, which accounts for 19% of the COVID-related deaths that Montana has reported since the beginning of the pandemic. Facilities that have identified a case of COVID-19 in a resident or staff member within the last 14 days are considered to be actively responding to an outbreak. There were 79 facilities that were actively responding to a COVID outbreak as of July 8, 2022 (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Montana ALF and LTCF Outbreaks by Week, September 2020-June 2022



Reported COVID-19 Cases by County with Trendline – Montana, past 6 weeks

County	3-Jun	10-Jun	17-Jun	24-Jun	1-Jul	8-Jul	change from previous week*	Trendline
Beaverhead	15	15	18	25	12	7	-5	
Big Horn	18	16	7	14	19	31	12	
Blaine	32	18	7	6	12	9	-3	
Broadwater	8	11	9	3	14	3	-11	
Carbon	8	9	10	10	12	14	2	
Carter	1	2	1	1	0	3	3	
Cascade	122	174	130	177	193	228	35	
Chouteau	6	9	7	7	13	17	4	
Custer	15	13	10	10	7	10	3	
Daniels	5	1	0	2	4	4	0	
Dawson	6	8	12	9	7	16	9	
Deer Lodge	12	18	28	38	37	30	-7	
Fallon	3	1	4	1	3	4	1	
Fergus	10	20	17	5	12	9	-3	
Flathead	134	169	234	208	212	250	38	
Gallatin	368	359	261	303	290	266	-24	
Garfield	4	6	2	4	0	0	0	
Glacier	25	25	32	26	9	25	16	
Golden Valley	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Granite	4	3	7	3	7	11	4	
Hill	25	14	19	25	29	22	-7	
Jefferson	16	23	25	32	26	38	12	
Judith Basin	2	1	3	1	2	1	-1	
Lake	71	81	78	83	53	66	13	
Lewis and Clark	218	206	177	204	183	213	30	
Liberty	3	9	10	6	6	3	-3	
Lincoln	30	32	27	21	43	36	-7	
Madison	15	19	21	23	33	29	-4	
McCone	0	0	1	3	0	4	4	
Meagher	6	7	9	2	2	4	2	

County	3-Jun	10-Jun	17-Jun	24-Jun	1-Jul	8-Jul	change from previous week*	Trendline
Mineral	4	21	13	18	11	15	4	
Missoula	206	214	249	268	383	287	-96	
Musselshell	3	3	5	9	6	1	-5	
Park	55	46	43	33	58	53	-5	
Petroleum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Phillips	2	3	1	8	8	1	-7	
Pondera	8	11	5	8	6	22	16	
Powder River	5	5	1	3	0	3	3	
Powell	13	7	8	11	19	14	-5	
Prairie	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	
Ravalli	38	56	48	43	53	53	0	
Richland	7	19	15	8	9	6	-3	
Roosevelt	6	14	10	8	12	13	1	
Rosebud	5	10	11	5	21	12	-9	
Sanders	9	5	14	6	10	13	3	
Sheridan	21	9	4	9	3	12	9	
Silver Bow	31	69	86	69	71	56	-15	
Stillwater	7	9	8	6	7	7	0	
Sweet Grass	3	1	2	2	8	6	-2	
Teton	10	4	7	8	16	19	3	
Toole	2	6	6	6	8	9	1	
Treasure	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Valley	8	10	14	11	18	35	17	
Wheatland	1	1	0	2	5	7	2	
Wibaux	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Yellowstone	163	190	247	251	316	295	-21	
MONTANA	1792	1988	1965	2044	2288	2295	7	

[†]Note: Data are based on the date of report into the Montana Infectious Disease Information System (MIDIS). Underlined numbers in the above table reflect adjusted counts and may include cases diagnosed but not reported in earlier time frames. These adjustments result from local and state data reconciliation efforts, conducted to ensure accurate data.

County name	Eligible population 0+	Dose 1	Fully Immunized	Total Doses Administered	Percent eligible with first dose (0+)	Percent Fully Vaccinated (0+)
BEAVERHEAD	9,483	5,551	5,162	13,108	59%	54%
BIG HORN	13,063	8,348	7,595	18,874	64%	58%
BLAINE	6,568	3,794	3,400	8,880	58%	52%
BROADWATER	6,444	2,420	2,026	5,427	38%	31%
CARBON	10,921	5,635	5,191	13,738	52%	48%
CARTER	1,235	383	362	933	31%	29%
CASCADE	81,346	43,606	38,907	100,727	54%	48%
CHOUTEAU	5,699	2,257	2,099	5,721	40%	37%
CUSTER	11,292	5,417	4,916	12,585	48%	44%
DANIELS	1,638	745	711	1,808	45%	43%
DAWSON	8,555	3,591	3,292	8,556	42%	38%
DEER LODGE	9,204	6,435	5,914	15,872	70%	64%
FALLON	2,826	1,087	1,014	2,586	38%	36%
FERGUS	11,104	5,574	5,243	13,926	50%	47%
FLATHEAD	105,851	53,229	46,222	123,478	50%	44%
GALLATIN	116,806	84,134	71,145	191,754	72%	61%
GARFIELD	1,268	318	297	686	25%	23%
GLACIER	13,594	10,635	8,041	22,113	78%	59%
GOLDEN VALLEY	827	394	363	922	48%	44%
GRANITE	3,317	1,476	1,290	3,456	44%	39%
HILL	16,358	10,024	9,201	22,755	61%	56%
JEFFERSON	12,360	6,834	6,235	16,888	55%	50%
JUDITH BASIN	1,994	817	768	2,000	41%	39%
LAKE	30,986	20,401	18,108	48,739	66%	58%
LEWIS & CLARK	70,229	46,003	40,402	111,030	66%	58%
LIBERTY	2,369	865	838	2,165	37%	35%
LINCOLN	20,343	9,566	8,489	22,799	47%	42%
MADISON	8,959	4,467	3,994	10,648	50%	45%
MCCONE	1,648	454	432	1,170	28%	26%
MEAGHER	1,831	1,017	957	2,530	56%	52%
MINERAL	4,544	2,649	2,408	6,131	58%	53%
MISSOULA	121,630	85,877	77,608	208,505	71%	64%
MUSSELSHELL	4,669	1,755	1,634	4,081	38%	35%
PARK	16,760	11,313	9,735	26,298	68%	58%
PETROLEUM	500	165	155	402	33%	31%
PHILLIPS	3,919	1,923	1,784	4,484	49%	46%
PONDERA	5,782	3,590	3,208	8,196	62%	55%
POWDER RIVER	1,681	506	469	1,180	30%	28%
POWELL	6,817	4,263	3,981	9,723	63%	58%
PRAIRIE	1,067	470	446	1,201	44%	42%
RAVALLI	45,002	24,837	22,464	60,319	55%	50%
RICHLAND	11,043	4,569	4,308	10,384	41%	39%
ROOSEVELT	10,964	6,121	5,493	13,461	56%	50%
ROSEBUD	8,836	5,484	4,908	12,569	62%	56%
SANDERS	12,157	5,099	4,543	12,225	42%	37%
SHERIDAN	3,261	1,960	1,856	5,004	60%	57%
SILVER BOW	35,180	24,059	21,981	59,328	68%	62%
STILLWATER	9,888	4,389	4,037	10,392	44%	41%
SWEET GRASS	3,684	1,717	1,556	4,038	47%	42%
TETON	6,249	3,150	2,688	6,910	50%	43%
TOOLE	4,686	2,369	2,217	5,145	51%	47%
TREASURE	695	436	321	929	63%	46%
VALLEY	7,359	3,459	3,269	8,386	47%	44%
WHEATLAND	2,157	818	758	2,003	38%	35%
WIBAUX	939	365	312	830	39%	33%
YELLOWSTONE	162,990	93,970	84,532	220,919	58%	52%
MONTANA	1,080,577	640,790	569,285	1,508,917	59%	53%